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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

PAGE 01 CARACA 01537 01 OF 02 130009Z
ACTION INM-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	ARA-01	CG-00	CIAE-00
	CTME-00	C-01	DEAE-00	DODE-00	EB-01	FBIE-00	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OIG-01	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-01
	PRS-01	P-01	RP-10	SIL-01	SNP-01	SP-01	SR-01
	SS-01	STR-20	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	FMP-01	/103W
-----0E8BA8 130010Z /38							

P 122023Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8289
INFO DIRONDCP WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 01537

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SNAR, PGOV, PINR, PHUM, VE
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] GETTING
READY FOR SAN ANTONIO SUMMIT/MORE ON COUP ATTEMPT

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REF: A) GRAHAM/OETTINGER TELCON OF 2/11

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1. SUMMARY: AT BREAKFAST ON FEBRUARY 11, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PROVIDED MORE PERSPECTIVE
ANALYSIS OF THE COUP ATTEMPT AND RAMIFICATIONS. ON
PREPARATIONS FOR THE SAN ANTONIO DRUG SUMMIT, [REDACTED]
REITERATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR COMPLETING NEGOTIATIONS ON
SEVERAL AGREEMENTS AND THEIR INTEREST IN A SUCCESSFUL,
NON-CONTENTIOUS SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE AMBASSADOR [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 11 FEB 2017
DATE/CASE ID: 17 AUG 2006 200503206

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[REDACTED]

IN ADDITION TO THE AMBASSADOR, EMBASSY PARTICIPANTS WERE
DEA C/A, EXAT AND NAS CHIEF.

MORE ON COUP ATTEMPT

3. AS WITH ALL OTHER MEETINGS OF THE LAST WEEK, THE MOST
PROMINENT TOPIC OF CONVERSATION WAS THE COUP ATTEMPT.
THIS BREAKFAST WAS NO EXCEPTION; THERE WAS A WEALTH OF
CONJECTURES AND OPINIONS. NO NEW INSIGHTS WERE PROFFERED,
BUT THE REMARKS REINFORCE WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED.

ANOTHER COUP NOT LIKELY: [REDACTED] WERE IN
AGREEMENT THAT ANOTHER COUP WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY. THEY
CLAIMED THE COUP WAS AN ISOLATED INCIDENT INVOLVING
LOCALIZED MILITARY ACTIVITY; E.G. THE PLOTTERS AND THEIR
COHORTS ACTED MORE OR LESS ON THEIR OWN. WHEN THE
AMBASSADOR ASKED WHY THERE WAS NO REAL WARNING OF THE COUP
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ATTEMPT, AND WHETHER IT COULD HAVE BEEN A RESULT OF THE
MOD NOT DOING ITS HOMEWORK OR POSSIBLE COLLUSION
SOMEWHERE, [REDACTED] IT WAS
THE FORMER. HOWEVER, [REDACTED]
(WHEN ASKED THIS QUESTION PRIOR TO [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ARRIVAL) REMARKED THAT ONE COULD "TAKE YOUR
PICK".

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CAUSES OF COUP: AGAIN, THE AMBASSADOR ASKED FOR OPINIONS
ON THE REASONS FOR THE COUP ATTEMPT - BSN
EE

OULD BE SOUNDLY REMINDED THAT NO ONE WHO
SEEKS TO TOPPLE A DEMOCRACY IS A FRIEND OF THE UNITED
STATES. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WAS THE APPROACH HE
WOULD TAKE SHOULD THAT REFERENCE EVER BE MADE; HIS GUESTS
SUPPORTED THIS TACTIC.

WHY NO POPULAR SUPPORT? [REDACTED] FELT THAT THERE
WAS SIMPLY NO WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR A MILITARY COUP.
MOST ALSO FELT THAT THE PLOTTERS HAD MISSED THE
OPPORTUNITY TO RALLY SUPPORT WHEN THEY FAILED TO TAKE OVER
THE MEDIA. ONE CONJECTURED THAT THE COUP TOOK PLACE "TOO
EARLY IN THE MORNING" TO ROUSE PUBLIC SUPPORT.

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TENDED TO AGREE

THAT CAP'S ANNOUNCED CHANGES WITHIN THE MILITARY WOULD NOT CAUSE PROBLEMS. THIS WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, THEY SAID, TO SHOW THE PUBLIC THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING EVERY PRECAUTION TO PREVENT ANOTHER COUP ATTEMPT (AMONG ANY OTHER DISENCHANTED OFFICERS).

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	SS-01	STR-20	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	FMP-01	/103W

-----0E8BBF 130011Z /38

P 122023Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8290

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INFO DIRONDCP WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 01537

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: SNAR, PGOV, PINR, PHUM, VE

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] GETTING

B1

PRESS CENSORSHIP: THE NEWS THAT CAP AND THE PRESS
ASSOCIATION HAD ARRIVED AT AN AGREEMENT BY WHICH THE
GOVERNMENT-STATIONED CENSORS WOULD BE REMOVED FROM
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NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING HOUSES IN RETURN FOR PROMISES BY
EDITORS AND NEWSPAPER OWNERS THAT THEY WOULD NOT PUBLISH
ARTICLES CRITICAL OF THE ADMINISTRATION WAS CONSIDERED A
POSITIVE STEP FORWARD. [REDACTED] POINTED
OUT THAT IT WAS TO CAP'S DISADVANTAGE THAT HE DID NOT HAVE
A SMART PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN WHICH SHOWED THE GOOD
THINGS HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO DO TO BUILD UP CONFIDENCE IN
HIS ADMINISTRATION. [REDACTED] ADDED THAT THE PRESS
ONLY SEEMED TO PUBLISH NEGATIVE ACTIONS BY CAP (SUCH AS
CENSORING THE PRESS) RATHER THAN POSITIVE ACTIONS. HE
ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SOME PAPERS WHICH WERE CENSORED (EL
NACIONAL ON FEB. 10) HAD BEHAVED DEVIOUSLY BY "PLANNING TO
PUBLISH" CENSOR APPROVED ARTICLES AND THEN REPLACING THEM
AT THE LAST MINUTE.

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MOVING AHEAD ON SAN ANTONIO PREPARATIONS

4. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THEY ARE:

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CHEMICAL AGREEMENT - SPANISH AND ENGLISH TEXTS ARE BEING
REVIEWED IN WASHINGTON FOR SUBSEQUENT REVIEW BY THE GOV;

UMBRELLA ASSET SHARING AGREEMENT - [REDACTED]
SEEMS INTENT ON SEEING THIS NEGOTIATED BEFORE THE SUMMIT.

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PROMISED TO LOOK INTO IT WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(NOTE: WE ARE ALSO PUSHING THE MINISTRIES OF FINANCE AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS THIS WEEK).

CBRN - THIS IS STILL WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND USG
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FOR FINAL REVIEW. [REDACTED]

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MOU ON PUBLIC AWARENESS - NEGOTIATED; WILL BE SIGNED AT
THE SUMMIT.

CASE-SPECIFIC ASSET SHARING AGREEMENT - ALREADY SIGNED; WE
WANT TO DELIVER THE \$1.3 MILLION CHECK TO THE GOV PRIOR
REPEAT PRIOR TO THE SAN ANTONIO SUMMIT.

5. [REDACTED] WHO
PARTICIPATED IN THE QUITO PRE-SUMMIT, SAID HE THOUGHT THE
NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DECLARATION WENT WELL. HE SAID THERE
WAS A NEW DRAFT TEXT WHICH DIFFERED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE
ORIGINAL U.S. TEXT. HE AND THE OTHERS FELT SURE THE
SUMMIT WOULD BE A POSITIVE, NON-CONTENTIOUS FORUM. HE DID
REMARK THAT SEVERAL OF THE INITIATIVES DID NOT APPLY TO
VENEZUELA BECAUSE IT IS NOT A MAJOR PRODUCING COUNTRY.

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6. NO ONE KNEW THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOV DELEGATION TO
THE SUMMIT. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] HE PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE
TO GO (GIVEN THE RECENT EVENTS). [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] IS PRETTY SURE HE WILL BE GOING.

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